SouthCambs

MAGAZINE • AUTUMN 2010

INSIDE // ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH // COMMUNITY // CONSERVATION // OLYMPICS // ART & CULTURE // KEY ISSUES - TENANTS' NEWS

Restoration of community orchards

See page 22

New Chief Executive at the helm

See page 14

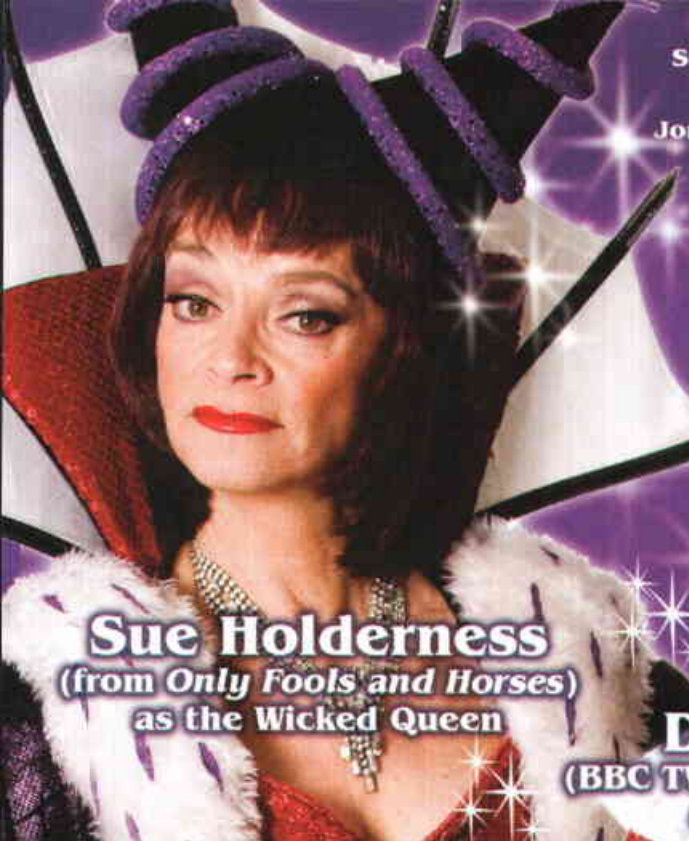
Blue bins

Coming to your street soon. See page 26

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Stevenage Leisure Limited
in association with
Jordan Productions present

gordon craig theatre

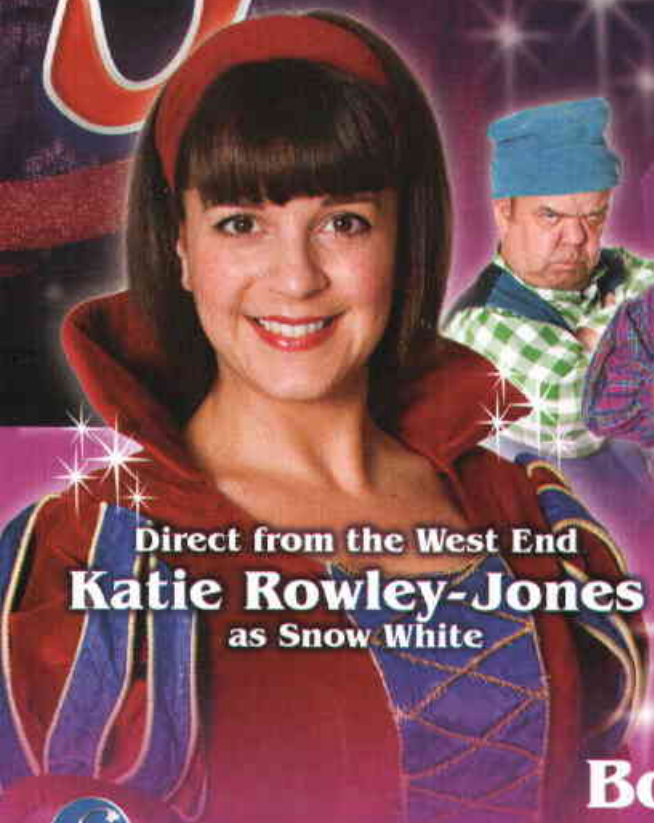


Sue Holderness
(from *Only Fools and Horses*)
as the Wicked Queen

Daniel Boys
(BBC TV's *Any Dream Will Do*)
as Prince Simon

Back by popular demand
Paul Laidlaw
as Dame Dolly

Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs



Direct from the West End
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27 November 2010 -23 January 2011

Box Office: 01438 363200

The Gordon Craig Theatre, Lytton Way, Stevenage SG1 1LZ, www.gordon-craig.co.uk

Welcome to the autumn issue of *South Cambs magazine.*

This issue contains important information about your new blue bin scheme, which will take effect from Monday 11 October, replacing the green box collection. See page 24.

Thanks to those of you who completed the community transport survey in the last issue; the results indicated that some of you are unaware of the various schemes across the district. We hope the information on page 8 will help you to make the journeys you need.

And finally, make sure you have the right to vote in any 2011 elections or referendums by completing the annual canvass form we recently sent out. See page 13.

Best wishes.

Cllr Ray Manning, Leader,
South Cambridgeshire District Council

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Front cover image:
Blue bins, coming to your street soon

Page 36 - The Park Life parade

Page 43 - Best Kept Gardens 2010

South Cambs Magazine

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Cambridge CB23 6EA
ISSN: 1741-8852
south.cambsmagazine@scambs.gov.uk
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Design: Bright Publishing

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The opinions and views expressed in *South Cambs Magazine* are not necessarily those of South Cambridgeshire District Council or Bright Publishing. All data contained in advertisements, being subject to the Advertising Standards Authority guidelines are accepted in good faith at the time of going to press.

Putting service first

If you phone us we will
- answer your call promptly – usually within 20 seconds
- provide voicemail if the person you need is unavailable
- answer your phone message within one working day

If you write to us we will
- reply to your letter or email within 10 working days
- if we cannot deal in full with your enquiry, we will give you the name of the officer dealing with it and a date when they will get back to you

If we write to you we will
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- arrange for translation, large type, Braille or audio tapes upon request

At all times we will
- treat you with respect, be polite, patient and honest

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- arrive at the time we say, or give you as much notice as possible if we have to change the time
- treat your home with respect

If we get it wrong we will
- apologise if we have made a mistake or failed to meet our standards
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- reply in full to your complaint within 10 working days

Particular services have their own additional standards. These are available at www.scambs.gov.uk/customerstandards or copies can be sent by post – please call 03450 450 500

How to contact us

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Office open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm
f: (01954) 713149
e: scdc@scambs.gov.uk
www.scambs.gov.uk
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03450 450 061	housing and council tax benefits
03450 450 062	building regulation inspections
03450 450 063	environmental services
03450 450 063	licensing
03450 450 064	council tax and business rates
03450 455 214	electoral services
03450 455 215	development control
03450 455 216	development services

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Need to make a payment?
To make a payment to SCDC you should ideally use a debit card (sorry, no credit cards). This service is available over the phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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- at www.scambs.gov.uk/paymybill - by debit card
- at your local post office
- by post

To pay business rates you can also use all the above methods, except the post office. For a direct debit form or post office payment card call 03450 450 064.

Cheques can be deposited at the cash office at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm. No cash can be accepted. Payments can also be made at Cambridge City Council's Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, excluding bank holidays.

If you would like a copy in large print please contact:

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email: SCmag@scambs.gov.uk

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Tell us how we're doing
At SCDC we're proud of what we are trying to achieve and recognise we can always do better. To further improve our services, we would appreciate your feedback, either by telling us when we have performed particularly well, or informing us when you have not been satisfied. You can do this in a number of ways:

- Comments at scdc@scambs.gov.uk
- Compliments at compliments@scambs.gov.uk for our online form
- Complaints at complaints@scambs.gov.uk for our online form and leaflet
- In person at our offices Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm
- By telephone on 03450 450 500 Monday to Saturday between 8am and 8pm
- In writing to the Customer Service Coordinator at our main office

Fear of Crime

Thank you to residents who responded to our fear of crime survey earlier this year. We were pleased to learn that most of you feel safe in your local area during the day and after dark. The results are helping us to provide you with relevant information, including the South Cambridgeshire crime rates:

Total crime in 2009/10 was down by 11.9% from 2008/09. This is a reduction of two crimes per day.

On a typical day in our district the crimes committed are:

- 1 or 2 domestic burglaries
- 2 or 3 assaults, one of which will result in injury to the victim.
- 3 cases of criminal damage
- 8 thefts, of which 2 are from vehicles

Police detect 3 of the 16 crimes committed on a typical day.

Approximately two thirds of survey respondents said that the information we make available helps them feel informed about crime levels and knowledgeable about reducing the likelihood of becoming a victim.

We will continue to work with the police to publicise accurate crime levels and crime prevention tips.

To receive email updates about what your neighbourhood policing team is doing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, complete the online form at www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops

Halloween can be a frightening experience for some people. Those not wishing to take part can display a 'no trick or treat' poster available from www.scambs.gov.uk/CommunityandLiving/CommunitySafety or by calling 03450 450 500.

Local entrepreneurs stepped up to win £30,000 worth of business support

In local government we are only too aware of the effects of the challenging economic climate and the importance of access to finance for stimulating innovation and business. As a listening council, we remain very much open for business and are pleased to have been able to support the thriving entrepreneurs of tomorrow, to the benefit of our district.

Together with Regus, Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce, Business Link, Streets Chartered Accountants, Taylor Vinters and Golley Slater, we launched our very own *Dragons' Den*-style business competition in March to stimulate business activity in South Cambridgeshire.

Six budding businesses made it through to face the judges and pitch for £30,000 worth of business backing, including one year's office accommodation, legal, accountancy and public relations support, and business mentoring.

Rebecca Chicot and Diana Hill were announced the winners with their One Stop Baby Guides business. They will be working with St John Ambulance to launch a DVD parenting course, offering practical advice on basic first aid, breastfeeding, weaning, nappy changing and interaction. It will be available in the 10 most popular languages spoken in Britain.

Cllr Nick Wright said, "Winning the competition has been a huge triumph for Rebecca and Diana and we wish them well as they embark on their venture.

"The competition has also yielded results for our runners-up who benefitted from free business workshops and access to professional business advice. Feedback has been very positive with many participants saying the competition gave them the stimulation they needed to move forward with their ideas."

Cllr Nick Wright with the winner Diana Hill and judges
Photo credit Cambridge News

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Northstowe school design project

Over 200 year-eight students from Swavesey Village College spent three days in July designing a new secondary school for Northstowe. The competition began with guest speaker, director of joint planning Peter Studdert, explaining our aspirations for the new 'Eco Town'. Topics discussed were: Use of renewable energy, green construction methods and commitment to zero carbon, as well as Community, Connectivity, Climate and Character.

The students went on to work with teaching staff, architects, nutritionists, planners, web designers, clothing designers and managers to develop their ideas further and produce their model school. The project proved to be hugely successful with all the children generating innovative and exciting designs, including the placement of on-site recycling facilities for leftover food to be made into bio fuel for buses, the use of neighbouring allotments to grow fruit and vegetables for school purposes, and the adoption of heat generating facilities that provide renewable energy that can be sold to the national grid and make money for the school!

• Paul Parsons from Tesco and Tracy Mann SCDC with the winning team

Staff from Tesco Bar Hill also worked with the children to provide nutritional food ideas for the school menu.

The work produced was of excellent quality and judging the ideas was very difficult. Our congratulations go to winners, the Newton House team who won a flight over the Northstowe site, kindly donated by the Rural Flying Corps at Bourn.

Neighbourhood panels

Neighbourhood panels provide an opportunity for you to come together with the police, district and county councils to discuss community safety issues. They are your opportunity to inform us of any concerns or issues you have and help shape the priorities for your area. All panel meetings start at 7.30pm with an informal meet and greet from 7pm

Bassingbourn/Melbourn Panel (Bassingbourn, The Mordens, Melbourn, Meldreth and Fowlmere & Foxton wards)
- Tuesday 19 October at Melbourn Village College
- Tuesday 18 January at Bassingbourn Village College

Comberton Panel (Bourn, Caldecote, Barton, Comberton & Hardwick wards)
- Wednesday 24 November at Comberton Village College
- Wednesday 23 February at Cambourne Church

Gamlingay Panel (Gamlingay, Orwell & Barrington, Haslingfield & The Eversdens and Harston & Hauxton wards)
- Wednesday 20 October at Gamlingay Village College
- Wednesday 19 January at Haslingfield Village Hall

Histon Panel (Histon & Impington, Waterbeach, Milton and Cottenham wards)
- Tuesday 12 October at Impington Village College
- Tuesday 11 January at Cottenham Village College

Linton Panel (covering The Willbrahams, Teversham, Fulbourn, Linton and Balsham wards)
- Tuesday 21 September at Linton Heights Junior School
- Tuesday 14 December at Fulbourn Centre

Sawston Panel (Sawston, Duxford, Whittlesford, The Shelfords & Stapleford and The Abingtons wards)
- Monday 4 October at Sawston Village College
- Tuesday 4 January at Sawston Free Church

Swavesey Panel (Swavesey, Longstanton, Willingham & Over, Bar Hill, Girton & Papworth and Elsworth wards)
- Tuesday 23 November at Bar Hill Village Hall
- Tuesday 22 February at Bar Hill Village Hall

For information about your neighbourhood policing team, visit the "my neighbourhood" page at www.cambs.police.uk or call 0345 456 456 4.

Community Transport in South Cambridgeshire

In the last edition of the South Cambs magazine we conducted a survey to get a feel for your knowledge and usage of local community transport schemes.

Of the 122 respondents to complete and return their survey, only 17 have used community transport schemes. Mostly, they use the transport for trips to the doctor and to the shops, although some travelled for social reasons too.

The remaining 105 respondents said they had never used community transport and the majority of these requested more information as to what it is and whether they are eligible.

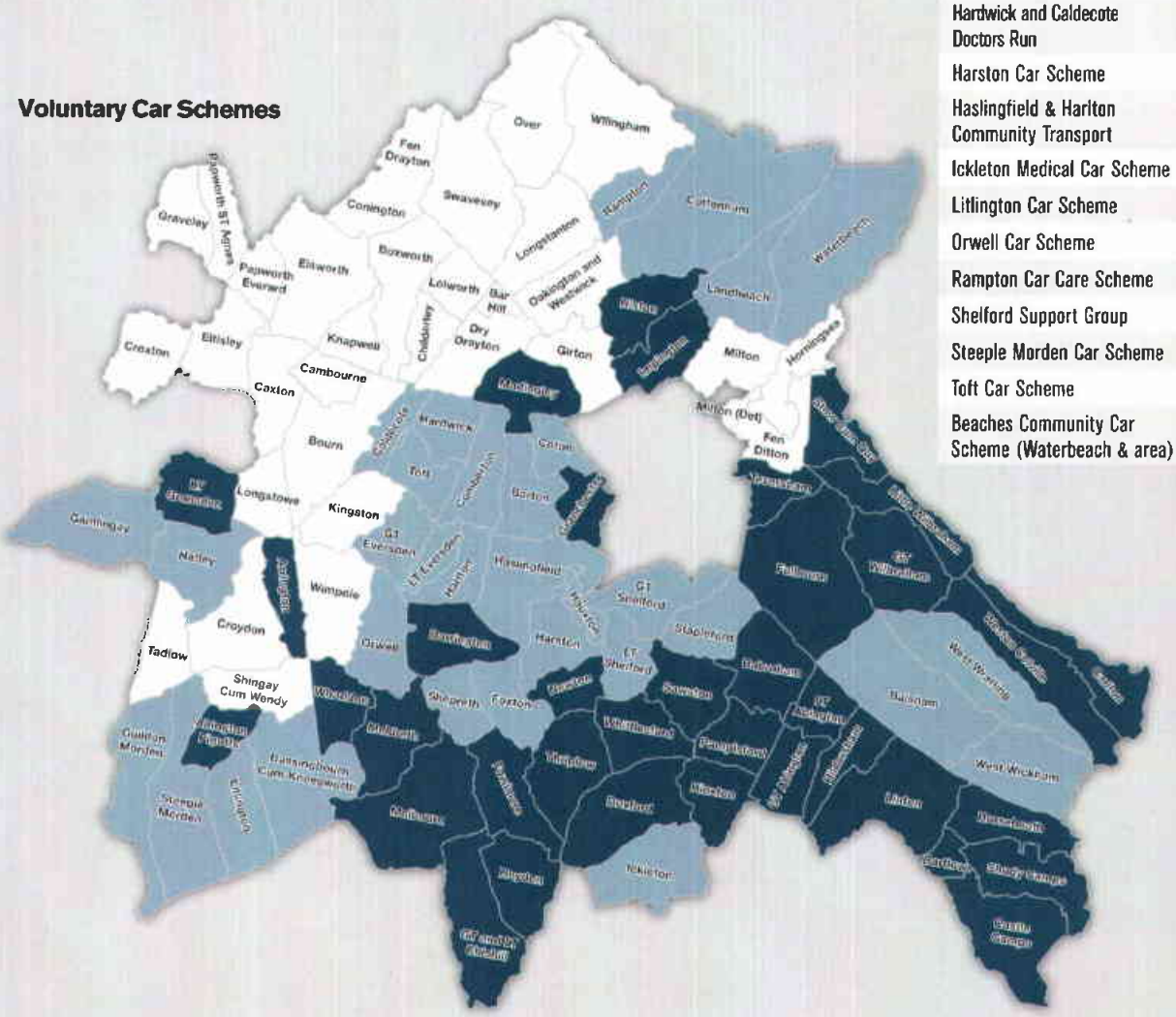
Thanks to those of you who responded to the survey. We hope the information we send to respondents, and the information here, will help every residents make the journeys they need and want to make.

Jacky Clark of Meldreth says: "I find the Royston service excellent. I use it to get to my various appointments and find the volunteer drivers helpful and friendly."

For more information on community transport contact Kathryn Hawkes on (01954) 713290

Scheme name / village	Tel Number
Arthur Rank Hospice Car Scheme	(01223) 723110
Balsham Helping Hands	(01223) 291414
Barton Community Car Scheme	(01223) 262095
Bassingbourn Car Scheme	(01763) 246589
Comberton Social Car Scheme	(01223) 262246
Coton Car Scheme	(01954) 210213
Cottenham Care Car Scheme	(01954) 251929
Eversdens Car Scheme	(07804) 678878
Foxton Social Car Scheme	(01223) 572147
Gamlingay & The Hatleys Car Care Scheme	(01767) 652949
Guilden Morden Car Scheme	(01763) 852125
Hardwick and Caldecote Doctors Run	(01954) 210638
Harston Car Scheme	(01223) 870288
Haslingfield & Harlton Community Transport	(07800) 883634
Ickleton Medical Car Scheme	(01799) 531779
Litlington Car Scheme	(01763) 852272
Orwell Car Scheme	(01223) 207307
Rampton Car Care Scheme	(07804) 971073
Shelford Support Group	(01223) 843856
Steeple Morden Car Scheme	(01763) 852952
Toft Car Scheme	(01223) 263629
Beaches Community Car Scheme (Waterbeach & area)	(07807) 875878

Voluntary Car Schemes



• Jacky Clark, a frequent passenger of RDCT, with her driver

Community Transport Eligibility

Anyone of any age is eligible if they don't have access to a car or public transport. There are a number of community transport providers across the district that you can contact in advance if you want to make a journey. Some of the schemes run with wheelchair accessible mini-buses and multi-purpose vehicles whilst others are car schemes run by local voluntary drivers in their own cars.

Cambridge Dial-A-Ride

Based in Cambridge, Dial-A-Ride provides wheelchair accessible mini-buses for groups and individuals across much of the district. For more information visit www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/dialaride or call (01223) 506335.

Royston & District Community Transport

Based in Royston, this scheme offers wheelchair accessible transport and volunteer car drivers across South Cambridgeshire. For information email rct1@totalise.co.uk or call (01763) 245228.

Papworth Everard Community Transport Service (PECTS)

This scheme offers door-to-door transport using a wheelchair accessible vehicle for residents of Papworth and the surrounding area. For information telephone 07546 579441.

Voluntary Car Schemes

The map left shows which villages are covered by a village car scheme and by the voluntary drivers at Royston CT and 3CT. For information about setting up a car scheme in your area contact Jane Hurst at Care Network on 07914 201547 or jane.h@care-network.org.uk

3 Counties Transport (3CT)

Based in Haverhill, this scheme offers wheelchair accessible transport and volunteer drivers in the south east of the district, including Duxford, Sawston, Teversham, Horningsea, Carlton and the villages inbetween. For information contact (01440) 712028.

Grant funding

Funding for 2010-11

Each year we allocate grant funding to organisations in the voluntary and community sector that work to benefit our residents, including those who support carers, disabled people, stroke sufferers and people with visual impairments. Last year the Partnership Team gave nearly £170,000 to local groups and charities.

Cam Sight, a local charity that supports blind and partially sighted people, received a grant of £2,800 towards running costs.

Cam Sight's rural support worker Alison Bourne said, "We strive to ensure that people with a visual impairment receive the practical and emotional support they need to retain their independence and to live life to the fullest. Our services include help with route finding, kitchen skills, sporting activities, reading, form filling, claiming benefit entitlements, and training in the use of specialist computers. We also offer access to a well-stocked resource centre with talking watches, easy-to-see mobile phones, specialist lighting and magnifiers.

"We run nine monthly social and support groups in South Cambridgeshire with members from over 30 villages. The groups offer support to members and the opportunity to meet others with similar eyesight problems."

For more information contact Cam Sight on (01223) 420033 or visit www.camsight.org.uk

Funding for 2011-12

Another round of funding will open soon, with £18,000 available for mobile warden schemes and £15,000 for other voluntary groups.

Projects will be funded where there is evidence that council priorities are being met.

The fund opens on 1 October and closes on 17 December. Successful organisations will be informed in March 2011.

Details, application forms and information on council priorities are available at www.scambs.gov.uk/grantsvcs

Alternatively call (01954) 713290.

Get Involved

To get involved in the work we do and influence change, why not visit our community engagement calendar at www.scambs.gov.uk It lists the activities that residents can take part in, including surveys, scrutiny events and neighbourhood panels.

To get involved with what's going on across the county visit www.cambridgeshire.net

Rural Services Survey

Cambridgeshire ACRE (Actions for Communities in Rural England) will soon be conducting a survey amongst parish clerks to find out about the services available across our rural areas, from shops and community facilities, to transport and crime prevention.

Visit www.cambsacre.org.uk for the results later this year.

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Saturday Schools

These include Alexander technique, Balti cooking, belly-dancing, colour & style, digital photography, food hygiene, Indian face & head massage, and mosaics.

Our new-look 2010-11 prospectus is now out. Make sure you have your copy. Call now for more information.

For more information and to book courses contact:

Sawston Village College
New Road, Sawston CB22 3BP
Tel: 01223 712424
Email: community@sawstonvc.org

Dates for your diary

Why not come along to our meetings and see how decisions are made? All meetings are held at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne unless listed otherwise.

Council - 2pm on 23 September and 25 November
Cabinet - 2pm on 9 September and 7pm on 11 November
Scrutiny and Overview Committee - 2pm on 2 September and 4 November
Standards Committee - 10am on 15 September and 8 December
Planning Committee - 2pm on 1 September, 6 October, 3 November and 1 December
Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee meetings will be called if and when required two weeks after Planning Committee meetings.

Portfolio holders' meetings

Environmental Services - 2pm on 12 October, 9 November and 9 December
Finance and Staffing - 5.30pm on 14 September, 19 October, 16 November and 14 December
Housing - 5.30pm on 15 September, 20 October, 17 November and 15 December
Leader - 10am on 16 September and 2pm on 11 November
New Communities - 3.15pm on 7 October and 11.15am on 14 December (follows Planning so start time may be delayed)
Northstowe - 2pm on 8 September and 10am on 9 December
Planning - 2pm on 7 October and 10am on 14 December
Policy and Performance - 11am on 21 September and 16 November

Other meetings open to the public

Climate Change Working Group - 10am on 9 September
Corporate Governance Committee - 10am on 24 September

Keep an eye on www.scambs.gov.uk/meetings for times, dates and venues. Occasionally arrangements do change – check for the latest details online before attending a meeting or call Democratic Services on 03450 450 500.

Maintaining standards in light of change

A message from Standards Committee Chairman Kathy English

"In the Queen's Speech in May, the government announced plans to abolish the Standards Board regime. This was hardly a surprise as the proposal had been part of the Conservative Party manifesto. No one knows what this means, apart perhaps from a few civil servants and they're not saying.

"At the moment, there is a statutory Code of Conduct that sets out how councillors should behave. For instance, they should not bully or intimidate people, disclose confidential information or misuse the council's resources. Complaints that a district or parish councillor has breached the code are considered by the district council's Standards Committee, which includes non-councillor members like me. If a case is particularly serious or complex, the committee can ask a national organisation to deal with it. That organisation is called Standards for England, but is more commonly known as the Standards Board.

"What is not clear is whether the government intends simply to abolish the Standards Board, leaving local councils to deal with even the most complex cases themselves, or whether it intends to abolish the entire system.

"I am sure that most electors would expect action to be taken if their councillors behave in an improper manner. For this reason, at South Cambridgeshire District Council, our Standards Committee aims to ensure that, whatever legislative changes there might be, we continue to take appropriate action to promote and maintain high standards of conduct among district and parish councillors."

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Each year a nationwide review of electors takes place across all councils when, by law, we have to contact every household in our district to ensure the electoral register is accurate and current.

There is a legal requirement on each household to respond to the form and confirm or amend the details we hold.

You should have recently received your annual canvass form from us. It is vital that you respond to make sure you have the right to vote in any 2011 elections or referendums. Here's how:

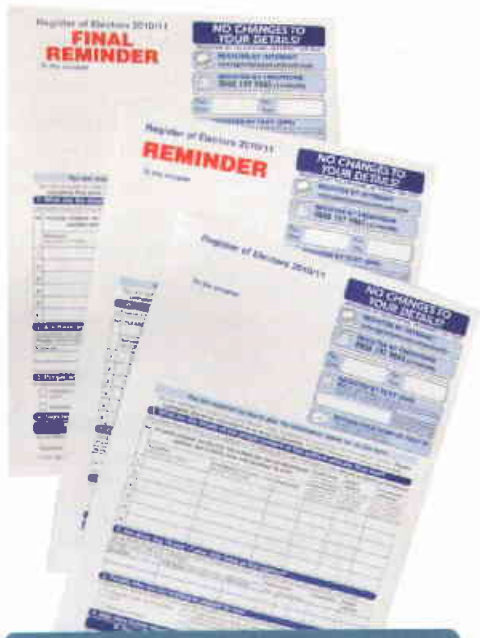
Everything on my form is correct
Call freephone 0800 197 9865 or visit www.registerbyinternet/southcambs

You will be taken through a step-by-step guide and asked to enter the unique security code printed on your form. It only takes a few moments and both services are available 24 hours a day. Alternatively you can text the code shown on your form to 80212 and we will text you back to confirm that we have received your response. If you use the phone, text or online service please do not send your form back by post.

I need to amend my form
Make any changes on your form, as outlined in the instructions, before returning it by post as soon as possible.

I need to change my opt-out status
Opting out means that your details will not be included on the publicly available electoral register that is for sale to the general public. You will, however, still be able to vote, and your details will still be supplied to authorised agencies such as the police and credit reference companies.

Whether you use the phone, online or postal registration service, all voters can change their opt out status.



For more information call 03450 455 214 or visit www.scambs.gov.uk/elections

Scrutiny Committee looks to the future

• Cllr Bridget Smith and Cllr James Hockney

Our Scrutiny and Overview Committee acts as a local watchdog, ready to suggest improvements to any local service.

Recent reviews have led to improvements at Orchard Park to the way local organisations work together for young people and to the council's financial management processes.

Now the committee is looking to improve its own performance. The new committee chairman Cllr James Hockney said, "We have to be a critical friend not only by pointing out issues or problems, but also by putting forward practical solutions. The three task and finish groups that have taken place (Arbury Park, Children & Young People and Finance Management) did a great job putting ideas forward and I'm sure the two new groups, Performance Management and Housing Value for Money, will too. People are looking for transparent democracy and our committee will help to provide that."

The committee's new vice chairman Cllr Bridget Smith added, "The council is good at providing information online about everything we do – meetings, finances and service performance. Now we need to help people make sense of that information and challenge our plans for the future."

In the next few months the committee is planning to look at community safety, value for money in the housing service, the likely impact locally of government cuts and improving customer service. If there are other services you would like the committee to scrutinise contact Jackie Sayers on scrutiny@scambs.gov.uk or (01954) 713451.

Making things better now and for the future

From what you've told us, and what we know about our communities, we have developed a council vision:

To make South Cambridgeshire a safe and healthy place where residents are proud to live and where there will be opportunities for employment, enterprise and world-leading innovation, and to be a listening Council, providing a voice for rural life and first-class services accessible to all.

• Building business links in South Cambridgeshire

To achieve this we have developed 11 actions that will form a part of our daily work through to March 2011 and beyond:

- work to obtain Customer Service Excellence accreditation
- sign up to the Member Development Charter to enable councillors to develop the skills they need to meet new challenges facing local government
- increase the number of teenagers taking part in positive activities
- review the housing service to maintain quality with fewer resources
- work towards a 65% recycling rate
- improve and maintain the appearance of our villages by:
  - installing more litter bins on major routes
  - continuing enhanced street cleaning in larger villages
  - undertaking further community clean-up events
- achieve a 10% reduction in the emission of CO2 from council operations
- work with parish councils on local projects to reduce CO2 emissions
- promote the district to new businesses and build links with Cambridge University
- support local people to establish community orchards
- take steps to improve community transport

Understanding the needs of our communities is ongoing and we monitor our progress by producing regular reports.

We are already reviewing our current vision and aims to draw up actions for next year. We'll be looking for your input to help us determine our priorities so look out on our website for consultation events this autumn.

New Chief Executive at council

A new Chief Executive is taking the helm. Jean Hunter, 53, originally from Sunderland but currently in Lancashire was appointed following a comprehensive selection process.

The outgoing Chief Executive, Greg Harlock, 59, retired on 31 August. He spent more than 40 years in local government and took over as Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer in 2006. To mark his departure Greg, a keen fruit and vegetable grower, was presented with a garden spade and fork at his last council meeting.

Jean was Chief Executive of South Ribble Borough Council. She has held senior positions in local government for more than 20 years, initially with Leicester City Council and then as Chief Executive at East Hampshire District Council prior to joining South Ribble in June 2000.

Before joining local government, Jean worked in the private sector for a number of companies including Granada Television, Beecham Consumer Products and Hay Management Consultants.

• Chairman Cllr Charlie Nightingale presenting spade and fork to Greg

Benefiting from improvement

Thank you to everyone who completed the benefits survey we sent out earlier this year. Your opinions are important in helping to recognise areas of good practice and bringing focus to areas needing improvement.

The results indicated a clear progression on the '09 results:

- 95% of respondents visiting our office felt there was enough seating for everyone waiting
- 100% of respondents visiting said we were polite and knowledgeable

Other notable results included:

- most of you still prefer to write in or phone us rather than email
- long-term customers were substantially more likely to know how to report a suspected fraud compared to new customers
- those aged under 60 were more likely to feel that their claim or change was not dealt with within a reasonable amount of time
- no one had used Sawston's one stop shop and, due to the decrease in the number of people visiting this surgery, it may stop

We will continue to send surveys to customers to monitor our service and to make improvements. On receiving these, please take a few minutes to have your say.

Listening, learning and performing

You said - we did

Using complaints as an opportunity to learn has led to a number of improvements. In response to your feedback, we have introduced:

- a clearer housing equity share leaflet and webpage
- improvements to public speaking at the Planning Committee to make the system clearer and more accessible
- a duty planning officer service to advise and guide applicants
- new IT processes to improve access to information and better response times
- improved communication to manage customer expectations
- an improved blue bin design for the collection of dry recyclables

Over the past year:

- we answered your call in an average of six seconds
- 95% of you were seen by a receptionist within two minutes of arrival
- 91% of you were seen within 10 minutes of your appointment
- you rated the overall services provided by our reception as 50% excellent and 48% good
- 100% of our complaints were acknowledged in three working days and 85% responded to within our publicised timescales

The reception customer service team at SCDC

Getting it right. Many thanks for these kind words from our customers:

- "thank you for the promptness and efficiency of this request"
- "it's nice to talk to someone who is so friendly and helpful"
- "I was most impressed with your professionalism"
- "quite possibly the best response I could have received. Thank you so much"
- "your speedy action was much appreciated"
- "the work you have actioned has made a big difference to us"

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We want to hear from you

Consultations will be held for six weeks from Monday 6 September to Monday 18 October for the following planning and conservation documents:

Supermarkets - north west Cambridge
This consultation with Cambridge City Council looks at future food retailing options in north west Cambridge at the university site, the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) sites and Orchard Park development, to address the needs of new and existing residents.

The four options for consultation are:
Option A – planned development only, with local food stores in each of the three local centres.
Option B – two supermarkets. One at the university site and one at NIAB, each larger than the city centre Sainsbury's and similar to Tesco, Milton.
Option C – one superstore at the university site, which would be similar in size to Tesco at Fulbourn or Asda at the Beehive Centre.
Option D – one superstore at the NIAB site, similar size to option C.

For options B, C & D the other local centres would have local food stores as planned.

Orchard Park Design Guidance
This supplementary planning document (SPD) will guide the design of any future proposals for the remaining undeveloped sites in Orchard Park.

There will be an exhibition on both documents at the Orchard Park Community Centre throughout the consultation period.

Papworth Everard Conservation Area Appraisal
A substantial extension to the existing conservation area is proposed including Papworth Hall and grounds (Papworth Hospital) and parts of Ermine Street and Church Lane. Significant buildings identified are from the early settlement, associated with Papworth Estate, or from the inter-war Village Settlement, famous for TB treatment and rehabilitation.

You can view the consultation documents and make comments at www.scambs.gov.uk

North West Cambridge Community Forum

Over 5,000 homes and 2,000 units of student accommodation are planned on Cambridge's north west fringe, as well as employment opportunities, new schools, health centres, libraries, sports and cultural facilities.

To keep residents informed on the progress of these developments, including the key issues of transport, flooding and drainage, and to give opportunities to comment, we, with our partners at the city and county councils, are pleased to announce a series of events for the North West Cambridge Community Forum.

The forum has been set up for residents affected by developments at the NIAB sites, the university site and Orchard Park. It has had a well-attended public drop-in event and a meeting on transport, during which experts gave presentations and answered questions raised by local people.

The forum is open to the public and forthcoming dates are:

- 22 September – 6pm to 9pm Exhibition about supermarket provision and Orchard Park Supplementary Planning Document at Orchard Park Community Centre
- 27 November – 10am to 12pm Girton parish - topic to be confirmed
- 26 January – 7pm to 9pm St Augustine's, Cambridge – flooding and drainage
- 26 March – 10am to 12pm Histon – topic to be confirmed

For information about community forum events contact tracy.mann@scambs.gov.uk or julian.adams@cambridge.gov.uk

Supplementary Planning Documents; new guidance for future development

Two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are currently being prepared for public consultation in late autumn

The Fen Drayton Land Settlement Association SPD focuses on the former Land Settlement Association estate – an early example of an attempt to achieve a more sustainable form of living.

Currently a number of homes with large land parcels and a variety of land use and buildings make up the estate.

We want to encourage experimental forms of sustainable living on the land and the SPD will provide guidance for future planning. We'd like applications from prospective developers to include groundbreaking forms of sustainable living, which may include the use of renewable energy and show how less water can be used.

The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has to be included on applications for all major developments to show how it may impact on the health and wellbeing of any future new residents and any existing neighbours to the development area. The HIA SPD will provide detailed guidance on what we expect a developer to include when submitting an HIA with a planning application.

• **Sustainable living and renewable energy with solar panels**

The timetable for the **Papworth Everard West Central SPD** is currently under review.

For more information on these, and other planning policy matters, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf

Planning software for the future

Personal planning areas on the SCDC website are on the way for residents and businesses.

At the time of printing, the website search pages for residents were being upgraded. In the long term, people will be able to do more for themselves.

Creating a personal area on our website will enable residents to receive new items of interest, follow the stages of applications they are interested in, and submit queries directly to us.

New computer software was introduced from 26 July. When the changeover is complete it will allow us to be more efficient and to serve our community better.

The process of generating correspondence during the planning process and issuing decisions to applicants will also be improved.

Please call (01954) 713155 for information

Changes to the planning system

A radical reform of the planning system is proposed by the new government.

It wants to devolve greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities control over housing and planning decisions.

A new draft Decentralisation and Localism Bill is due to be published by the end of 2010 and passed by parliament by the end of 2011.

The government has already revoked Regional Spatial Strategies - for our area this is the East of England Plan which set out targets for housing development and Gypsy and Traveller pitch numbers.

The government also intends to introduce a new system of plan making, which is yet to be agreed. This means the targets for housing development and numbers of Gypsy and Traveller pitches will be set locally in future, and initial indications are that they will be expected to reflect local need and historic demand. We are awaiting further guidance on this.

In the meantime, the existing Local Development Framework (LDF) system and the council's adopted LDF documents continue to provide the planning policy framework for the district to 2016.

In light of the proposed changes, work on the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document and the proposed review of the Core Strategy will now progress more slowly whilst we await guidance.

A revised timetable for plan making will be published on www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf in due course

The Swifts at Fulbourn

The redevelopment of Fulbourn's Windmill Estate is going from strength to strength

Accent Nene was granted outline planning permission in December 2007 to work with us to redevelop the Windmill Estate.

Subject to existing owner's agreement, planning and funding, five phases of construction are planned totalling between 250 and 260 new homes.

Phase 1A was completed in 2009 and all 45 new homes are occupied.

Accompanying this, parish council meeting rooms and a library were built and are already well used.

We have been pleased with the feedback from residents about the move and their new homes.

Resident Alan Lanfear said: "I was very against the redevelopment initially and didn't want to move home or to stop being an SCDC tenant, but now I am in my new bungalow I am absolutely thrilled with it and love living here."

The buildings were occupied by a large colony of swifts. Following their departure in August 2009 for sunnier climes, demolition began marking the start of phase 1B and the building of a further 74 new homes - a mix of rented, shared ownership and private sale.

• Tenant, Alan Lanfear, enjoying his new garden

Phase 1A saw 75 new swift nest sites provided and phase 1B will also include a similar number as part of Accent Nene's commitment to wildlife conservation. For more information go to www.swift-conservation.org

Government funding for phase 1B from the Homes & Community Agency was successfully secured towards the provision of 34 new rented homes, which will meet the Code for Sustainable Homes standard.

To achieve this standard, the homes will have photovoltaic panels on the roofs to provide electricity from sunlight, and a mechanical ventilation heat recovery system to ensure the circulation of clean filtered air - warm in winter and cool in summer.

This technology will give future tenants energy savings and require no complicated programming.

Final building works for phase 1B should be completed in December 2010. Residents who have previously bought homes on the Windmill Estate are being offered new homes on the development, whilst tenants are being re-housed in modern, energy-efficient homes. There will also be new homes available for local people to rent or for shared ownership.

Accent Nene has recently received planning approval for phase 2A comprising 59 new homes - a mixture of houses and flats for rent and sale - which will be built from February 2011.

An event was held in May to show local people the plans. Throughout the whole process local residents and the parish council have been involved in the scheme, helping to shape and improve the local community.

Sustainability and project manager at Accent Nene, Gill Anderton said, "We are proud of what has been achieved so far. It has been as a direct result of excellent teamwork and collaboration between ourselves, the district and parish councils, the contractor and, most crucially, the existing residents.

"Without the residents' engagement, hard work, patience and enduring good humour, this scheme would not be as far forward as it is. We aim to deliver a finished scheme that everyone is proud of."

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Village initiative to bear fruit

Orchards are part and parcel of South Cambridgeshire's landscapes and heritage. They give us beautiful spring blossom, distinctive varieties of fruit, and a home for wildlife.

The Cottenham Seedling and Cambridge Gage are just two of the district's fruit varieties, and the Chivers jam factory at Impington was one of those facilities that relied on local orchards.

Many of our traditional orchards have been lost or are overgrown and some excellent community orchards such as Harston and Orwell are vulnerable. Restoring existing orchards and planting new ones has tremendous benefits, ranging from creating attractive places dappled with sun and shade, to teaching children about healthy eating. Community orchards also make great local projects. Everyone can contribute something and villagers can see an orchard grow and mature over time.

We have made the creation and revival of community orchards a priority this year with an ambitious target to support six new or restored orchards, and to carry on the initiative in the future. The orchards have to consist of at least five trees and be accessible to the public. We will flag up sources of guidance and funding where necessary such as our existing wildlife grants. It is, however, the community that takes the lead, setting up a local group and organising the planting and maintenance. And it is the village that will benefit, whether from events such as apple days, enjoying the fruits of their labours or cultivating a new community pastime.

To find out more visit: www.scambs.gov.uk/communityorchards

Creating Community Orchards

Local fruit farmer and leader of the council Cllr Ray Manning has some words of wisdom for community groups looking to create or revive local orchards.

"The first consideration is always which site to choose. It needs to be well drained with no signs of heavy clay as fruit trees will not tolerate waterlogging during the winter. Another factor to bear in mind is whether the site is low-lying. If this is the case there will be a risk of spring frost damaging the blossom. On the flipside, if it is very exposed to cold winds, pollination will be poor so it is a bit of a balancing act.

"The next decision is what trees to plant, apple, pear or plum. Apple trees require the most maintenance and plums the least. In the north of the district plums were widely grown for processing and market. Pears were also an important crop whilst apples were the least in demand of the three.

"All fruit trees are grafted or budded onto a rootstock which will determine the size. For example, Bramley on an M16 or M25 rootstock may grow to over 30 feet high and equally wide. On an M9 rootstock the same tree will be no more than 10 feet high. It will need a strong stake to hold the tree as its roots are very weak.

"Many of our villagers worked in the orchards and, I'm sure, would be happy to offer advice."

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6 Sep	13 Sep	20 Sep	27 Sep	4 Oct	11 Oct	18 Oct	25 Oct	1 Nov	8 Nov	15 Nov	22 Nov	29 Nov	6 Dec	13 Dec	20 Dec	28 Dec	4 Jan
																Tue	Tue

Bartlow, Castle Camps, Horseheath, Linton, Sawston, Shudy Camps

6 Sep	13 Sep	20 Sep	27 Sep	4 Oct	11 Oct	18 Oct	25 Oct	1 Nov	8 Nov	15 Nov	22 Nov	29 Nov	6 Dec	13 Dec	20 Dec	28 Dec	4 Jan
																Tue	Tue

Tuesday

Carlton, Coton, Gt Wilbraham, Histon, Horningsea, Impington, Lt Wilbraham, Madingley, Orchard Park, Six Mile Bottom, Teversham / Cherry Hinton*, West Wickham, West Wratting, Weston Colville

7 Sep	14 Sep	21 Sep	28 Sep	5 Oct	12 Oct	19 Oct	26 Oct	2 Nov	9 Nov	16 Nov	23 Nov	30 Nov	7 Dec	14 Dec	21 Dec	29 Dec	5 Jan
																Wed	Wed

**Cherry Hinton: north of the railway as Teversham*

Fen Ditton, Fulbourn / Cherry Hinton*, Girton, Milton, Oakington, Stow-cum-Quy, Westwick

7 Sep	14 Sep	21 Sep	28 Sep	5 Oct	12 Oct	19 Oct	26 Oct	2 Nov	9 Nov	16 Nov	23 Nov	30 Nov	7 Dec	14 Dec	21 Dec	29 Dec	5 Jan
																Wed	Wed

**Cherry Hinton: south of the railway as Fulbourn*

Wednesday

Bar Hill, Childerley, Chittering, Dry Drayton, Knapwell, Landbeach, Longstanton, Swavesey, Waterbeach

8 Sep	15 Sep	22 Sep	29 Sep	6 Oct	13 Oct	20 Oct	27 Oct	3 Nov	10 Nov	17 Nov	24 Nov	1 Dec	8 Dec	15 Dec	22 Dec	30 Dec	6 Jan
																Thur	Thur

Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Cottenham, Elsworth, Fen Drayton, Lolworth, Over, Rampton, Willingham

8 Sep	15 Sep	22 Sep	29 Sep	6 Oct	13 Oct	20 Oct	27 Oct	3 Nov	10 Nov	17 Nov	24 Nov	1 Dec	8 Dec	15 Dec	22 Dec	30 Dec	6 Jan
																Thur	Thur

Thursday

Cambourne, Comberton, Croxton, Eltisley, Graveley, Hardwick, Papworth Everard, Papworth St Agnes

9 Sep	16 Sep	23 Sep	30 Sep	7 Oct	14 Oct	21 Oct	28 Oct	4 Nov	11 Nov	18 Nov	25 Nov	2 Dec	9 Dec	16 Dec	23 Dec	31 Dec	7 Jan
																Fri	Fri

Abington Pigotts, Arrington, Bassingbourn, Bourn, Croydon, Gamlingay, Guilden Morden, Hatley, Litlington, Longstowe, Lt Gransden, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Steeple Morden, Tadlow

9 Sep	16 Sep	23 Sep	30 Sep	7 Oct	14 Oct	21 Oct	28 Oct	4 Nov	11 Nov	18 Nov	25 Nov	2 Dec	9 Dec	16 Dec	23 Dec	31 Dec	7 Jan
																Fri	Fri

From 14 October Toft residents will experience a small change to their collection days following the introduction of the blue bin scheme and have been excluded from this calendar. They will receive a separate calendar dedicated to Toft, through the post.

Friday

Barton, Foxton, Grantchester, Gt Eversden, Harlton, Haslingfield, Kingston, Lt Eversden, Newton, Orwell, Shepreth, Thriplow & Heathfield, Whittlesford, Whaddon, Wimpole

10 Sep	17 Sep	24 Sep	1 Oct	8 Oct	15 Oct	22 Oct	29 Oct	5 Nov	12 Nov	19 Nov	26 Nov	3 Dec	10 Dec	17 Dec	24 Dec	3 Jan	8 Jan
																Mon	Sat

Barrington, Caldecote, Duxford, Fowlmere, Gt Chishills, Heydon, Lt Chishills, Melbourn, Meldreth

10 Sep	17 Sep	24 Sep	1 Oct	8 Oct	15 Oct	22 Oct	29 Oct	5 Nov	12 Nov	19 Nov	26 Nov	3 Dec	10 Dec	17 Dec	24 Dec	3 Jan	8 Jan
																Mon	Sat

What goes where?

- **Bins must be out by 7am on your designated day of collection**
- **Close lids firmly**

Caddy

Paper

Newspapers & magazines

Telephone directories

Catalogues

Envelopes (with or without windows)

Shredded paper

Junk mail

Jiffy bags, wrapping paper & greeting cards

- Place the caddy inside your blue bin
- Excess blue bin material will be collected if placed along side the blue bin in a returnable container
- Place items loosely in the blue bin and not in carrier bags
- Rinse items to remove any food contamination

Blue bin

Plastic bottles

Plastic bottle tops & triggers

Plastic packaging (pots, trays & tubs)

Plastic bags

Plastic film & clean food wrapping

Glass jars & bottles

Food & drinks cans

Aerosols

Tin foil & foil trays

Cartons (e.g Tetrapak)

Cardboard

Polystyrene
Pyrex, flat glass

Battery bag

Batteries inc. AA & AAA cells, button batteries, size C & D and any laptop & mobile battery

Lead acid batteries e.g. vehicle batteries

Green bin

Garden waste

Cooked/uncooked food waste (meat, fish & dairy)

Any type of cat litter
Cartons (e.g. Tetrapak) - put in blue bin
Turf and soil - due to it's weight
Any type of plastic inc bags/sacks

Biodegradable bags (cornstarch, potato starch)
Corrugated cardboard - put in the blue bin
Cardboard - put in the blue bin

- Excess green bin material cannot be collected, please compost it or take it to Milton or Thriplow Recycling Centre

Black bin

Non-recyclable / non-compostable material

- Please use your black bin for material that cannot be placed in green or blue bins
- Excess black bin material cannot be collected, please take it to Milton or Thriplow Recycling Centres

For more information visit www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling or call 03450 450 063

TEAR ME OUT & STICK ME TO YOUR FRIDGE

Coming to your street soon

Blue bin deliveries are well underway and we are getting ready for the first blue bin and paper caddy collection on Monday 11 October.

From 11 October your blue bin will replace your green boxes and will be collected on the same day as your green bin.

Below is your step-by-step guide to the new blue bin and paper caddy scheme.

Deliveries of blue bins and inner paper caddies:

- Everyone should receive a blue bin and inner paper caddy by Wednesday 6 October. If you have not received a blue bin and inner caddy by this date please call 03450 450 063
- An information pack will be delivered with the blue bin and will provide detailed information about the new scheme
- Please allow a week for bin lids to settle and close properly

What goes in the blue bin?

Cllr Sue Ellington demonstrating what goes where in the new blue bin

What goes in the paper caddy?

You don't ever need to take the caddy out of the blue bin

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Your bin cleaned, disinfected & deodorised once every four weeks

CALL FREE - 0800 183 2011

£3 PER CLEAN

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OPTION 4 4 mths - 2 Bins 8 Cleans £24	OPTION 5 6 mths - 2 Bins 12 Cleans £36	OPTION 6 12 mths - 2 Bins 24 Cleans £72

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Email:paint@bedec.co.uk web:www.bedec.co.uk

What do these items have in common?

We recycle them all!

As well as recycling most household waste from South Cambridgeshire, Donarbon has facilities to collect and recycle all the above materials, as well as waste from offices, shops, pubs, restaurants or builders.

Call us for more information on how we can help your business meet its legal obligations for waste collection and disposal

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Cambridgeshire County Council

Are you making the most of your recycling centre?

3 simple steps to make the most of your recycling centre...

- ☑ **Separate all your metals, glass, paper, timber, garden waste and other items at home before your trip to the recycling centre. This will make it easier for you to deposit your waste correctly and we can recycle more!**
- ☑ **Put your items in the right containers to make sure they are recycled into new products.**
- ☑ **If in doubt, ask a member of staff. You can call beforehand or talk to staff once you are there.**

Your local recycling centre accepts a wide range of materials for recycling, including: garden waste, timber, cardboard, plasterboard, electrical appliances and much more.

Your local recycling centres are open every day at:

Milton:
09.00-20.00 Mon-Fri
09.00–18.00 Sat & Sun until 30th September & 09.00-16.00 from 1st October

Thriplow: 08.00-17.00 until 30th September & 08.00-16.00 from 1st October

For more information go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/waste or contact us on 0345 045 5207

Donarbon

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Battery bag

- A bag for batteries will be in the information pack delivered with the blue bin. Simply place your unwanted batteries, including AA and AAA cells, button batteries, size C and D batteries and any laptop and mobile phone batteries into the bag
- When the bag is full remove the strip and stick the bag underneath the handle of your blue bin
- The collection crew will leave a replacement bag in your caddy

New additions to the dry recyclables collection

- Plastic film, including carrier bags and clean food wrapping
- Batteries (not vehicle batteries)
- Cardboard, now to be recycled and not composted in the green bin

The collection

- From Monday 11 October please put your blue bin and caddy out for collection along with your green bin. They will be collected on the day your green boxes would have been collected. See page 24 for the collection calendar
- If your blue bin is full, please put any excess recycling alongside the blue bin in a suitable container. We will collect this when your blue bin is emptied (and return your container). Similarly, excess paper can be presented in a separate container and collected

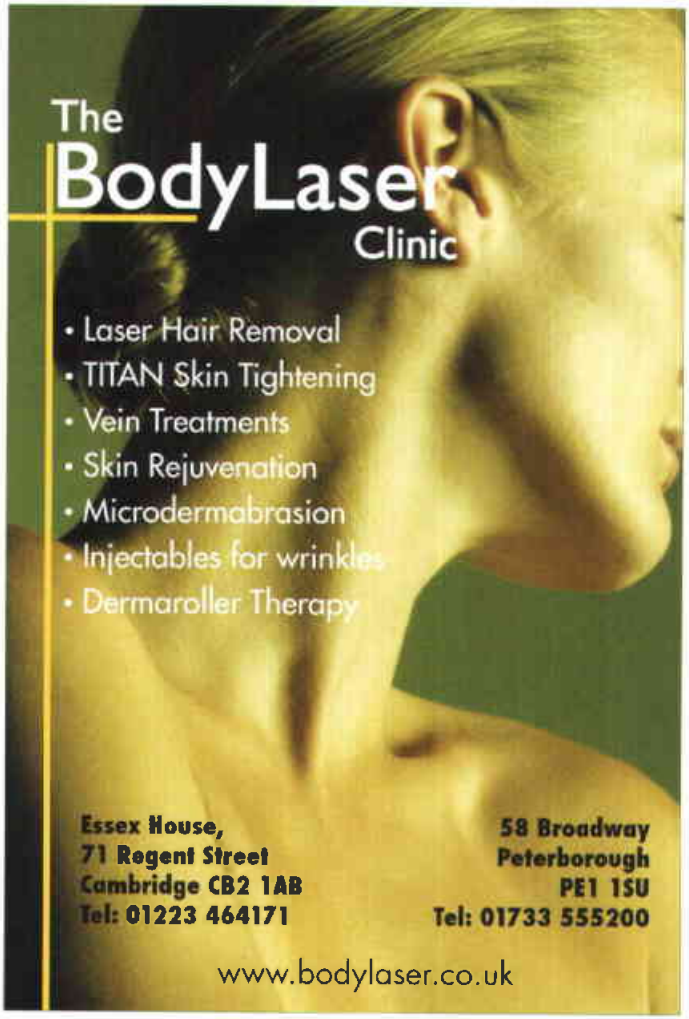
The green box

- Please continue to present your green box on your normal collection day until Friday 8 October. We will begin collecting the blue bin and paper caddy from Monday 11 October
- Green boxes will not be emptied after Friday 8 October unless used for excess recycling alongside your blue bin
- Between Monday 27 September and Sunday 7 November, unwanted green boxes can be left at the recycling areas at:
  - Morrisons Supermarket, Cambourne
  - Tesco's Supermarket, Bar Hill
  - Tesco's Supermarket, Fulbourn
  - Tesco's Supermarket, Milton
- Green boxes left at the recycling areas will be collected and recycled

After collection

- Paper will be sent to a paper mill and recycled into new products
- The mixed recycling will be sorted into different material types. The materials will then be made into new items.
- Look out for more information on what happens to the materials in the next edition of the South Cambs magazine

For more information on the blue bin scheme visit www.scambs.gov.uk/bluebin or call 03450 450 063.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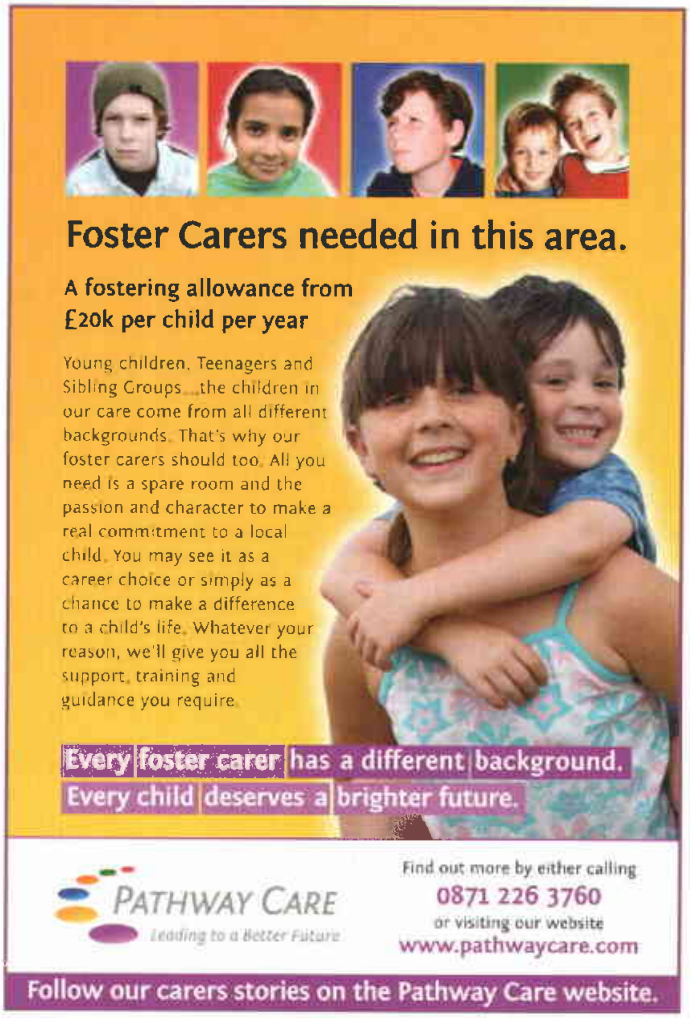
Foster Carers needed in this area.
A fostering allowance from £20k per child per year
Young children, Teenagers and Sibling Groups...the children in our care come from all different backgrounds. That's why our foster carers should too. All you need is a spare room and the passion and character to make a real commitment to a local child. You may see it as a career choice or simply as a chance to make a difference to a child's life. Whatever your reason, we'll give you all the support, training and guidance you require.
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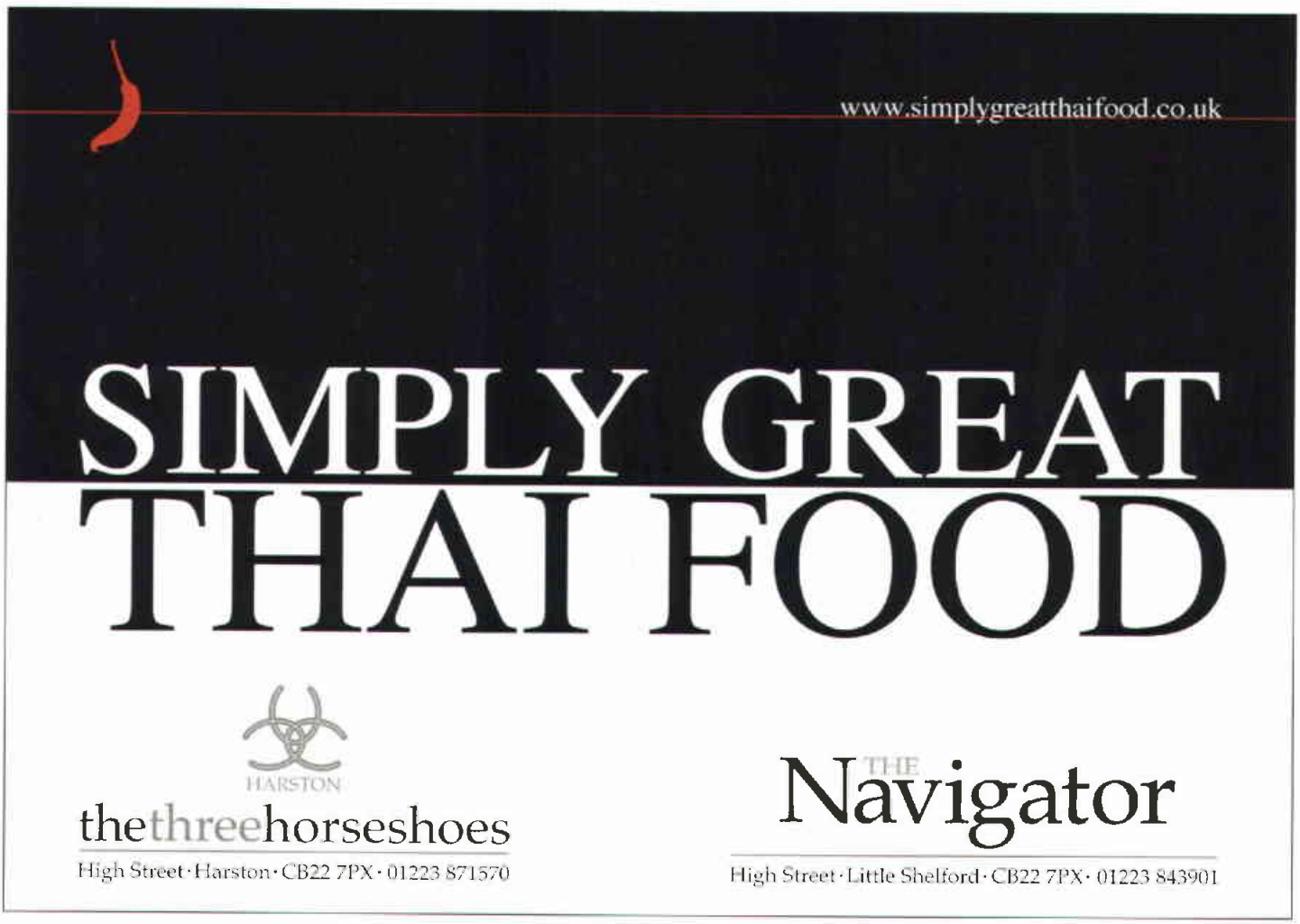
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Neighbours from hell

According to a recent survey by *Which?* at least three million UK adults suffer from noisy neighbours, and the number of complaints is increasing more rapdily than noise complaints from any other source.

Incompatible lifestyles, selfish attitudes and higher expectations of peace are seen as the main reasons for the increase in complaints.

Noise from neighbours can originate from barking dogs, loud music, heated arguments, machinery, construction, DIY activities, alarms and transport.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 establishes nine categories of statutory nuisance, one of which is noise, but it can be difficult to know when it constitutes a nuisance. We have a high tolerance for noise before we do anything about it, but if it disturbs you, and is loud and sustained, then it may be a nuisance.

If you are bothered by noise, don't suffer in silence; you can contact us for help, even in the middle of the night for emergencies and for ongoing complaints where an abatement notice has already been served.

Our response to noise complaints depends on the characteristics of the sound, including intensity, frequency, complexity and duration.

If we receive a complaint about noise, the complainant is asked to keep a log for a period of 14 days and write down every time the noise causes them a nuisance to establish whether it merits further investigation. On receipt of the log, we monitor the noise and, if it constitutes a statutory nuisance, we serve the responsible person with an abatement notice.

Failure to comply with the abatement notice could lead to prosecution. In South Cambridgeshire we find that people are happy to try to resolve the matter without going to court, which is an expensive and time consuming alternative for all parties.

The taxi driver's route to a vehicle licence

Driving a licensed vehicle is not as simple as many may think. It's not a case of simply picking the phone up, chatting with an operator and turning up for work. You require a licence from the council that deems you 'fit and proper' for this responsibility.

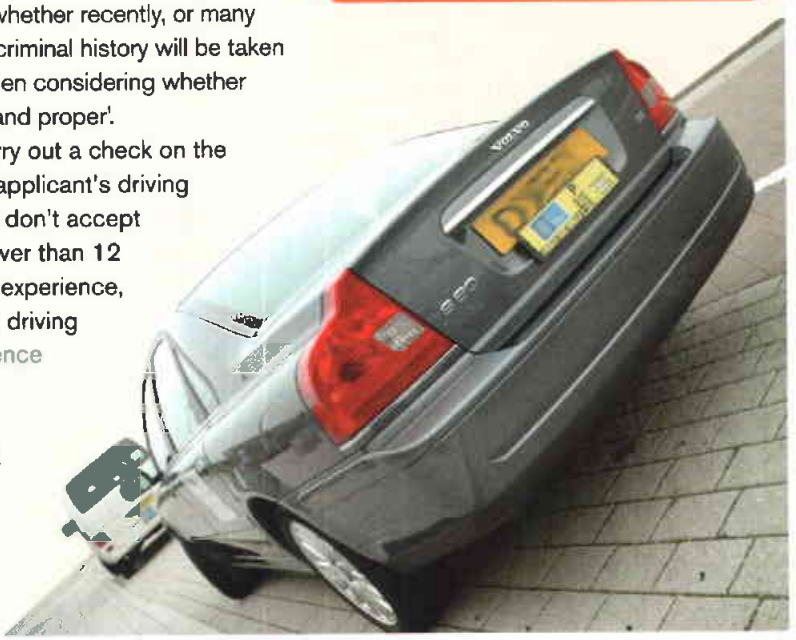
Are you medically fit?
Drivers of licensed vehicles are subject to a medical examination to group two standards, that's the same as for a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) or public service vehicle (PSV) driver.

Are you safe on the roads?
Passing the standard driving test is not sufficient to drive a licensed vehicle. Since 2008, we require all new drivers licensed in South Cambridgeshire to take a Driving Standards Agency (DSA) driving test specifically aimed at Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers.

On top of this we carry out an enhanced criminal records check, which will identify any conviction or caution that an applicant may have had, whether recently, or many years ago. Any criminal history will be taken into account when considering whether someone is 'fit and proper'.

We also carry out a check on the status of each applicant's driving licence and we don't accept anyone with fewer than 12 months driving experience, an international driving permit, or a licence from a country that does not meet the DVLA approval for exchangeable licences.

For more information visit www.scambs.gov.uk/Business/Licensing



Get in touch

stART supporting arts development

SCDC's Andy O'Hanlon works in partnership with a team of arts development managers who are based at the village colleges and serve the local community.

Together, they have formed stART, an organistion that supports a wide range of arts programmes across the district. For information about any of the local projects or events featured here please contact the appropriate arts development manager:

Comberton area	Richard Brown	richard@start-arts.org.uk or 01223 262503 ex 267
Cottenham and Impington area	Amy Wormald	amy@start-arts.org.uk or 01954 288748
Melbourn area	Kirstin Bicknell	kirstin@start-arts.org.uk or 07770 643165
Sawston and Linton area	Lesley Morgan	lesley@start-arts.org.uk or 01223 712825
Swavesey area	Karen Thomas	karen@start-arts.org.uk or 01954 234476
All other areas	Andy O'Hanlon	arts@scambs.gov.uk or 03450 450500

To find out more about the equipment bank, the mobile cinema, the List Live directory and the artsMASH youth programme see www.start-arts.org.uk

For event listings please see www.cambridgeshire.net and www.scambs.gov.uk/events

Shakespeare in South Cambs

Hundreds of young people across the country are taking part in the Shakespeare School Festival this autumn. Students from Cottenham and Impington Village Colleges have been preparing half-hour abridged versions of Shakespeare plays to perform at a professional theatre. With the support of arts development manager, Amy Wormald, the young people have formed a company of actors, composed a new piece of music to complement the play, and devised all costume design, props and lighting.

You can see performances of Romeo and Juliet and A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Junction in Cambridge on Tuesday 9 November at 7pm. Tickets are available from the box office. Alternatively call (01223) 511511.

Swavesey's new venue nears completion

A new performing arts venue based at Swavesey Village College is nearing completion, despite a winter of heavy snow and a summer of heat waves.

Due to open for a special gala performance on 15 October, the venue will bring a high quality performance space for students' concerts and shows, amateur productions and professional companies.

The village college will use the hall for assemblies and exams but it won't be regularly timetabled so should be available for the community to use at reasonable rates. The venue is programmed by a committee of representatives from the local area and, together with the arts development manager, they will deliver a varied programme of events for the community, including concerts, comedy nights, theatre, exhibitions and film screenings.

The new venue will also support the college's award-winning performing arts department and will enable students to develop new skills in technical theatre using professional equipment. It will also help the popular Saturday Swavesey Music School to develop its Technically Speaking programme to include stage lighting and managing sound systems.

• Swavesey Village College students celebrate the arrival of the new venue

For more information or to join our mailing list to keep up to date with events in and around Swavesey contact arts development manager Karen Thomas.

Sawston Village College says goodbye to Principal

At the end of August, Sawston Village College said a fond farewell to June Cannie who is retiring after eight years as Principal. She will be missed both at the school and within the wider local community.

Throughout her time at Sawston, June worked very hard to ensure that the Henry Morris vision of having the college sit at the heart of its community remained an important part of school life and demonstrated this through her enthusiasm for the arts. Working in partnership with the council, June piloted the role of arts development managers at Sawston Village College and oversaw the first appointment in 2003.

Chairman of the Council, Councillor Charlie Nightingale said, "Our thanks go to June for her commitment to education. We have enjoyed a rewarding partnership and now wish her the very best for her retirement."

Jonathan Culpin will take on the role of Principal in September when plans will also begin to take shape for the launch of a project marking the college's 80th anniversary of the first village college in the country. Activities will be funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. For more information contact arts development manager, Lesley Morgan.

Ringing the changes

New phone box book exchange for Boxworth

With the universal popularity of the mobile phone, the iconic British red telephone boxes are slowly disappearing from our streets. After only two calls were made from the public telephone in Boxworth in a year, BT removed the telephone and offered the kiosk to the parish for the princely sum of £1!

Suggestions were invited on how best to make use of the telephone booth as the Gilbert Scott K6 design was such a feature of the village landscape. Janet King, a member of the Boxworth Book Group, spotted a magazine story about a volunteer-run phone box book exchange in Westbury-sub-Mendip, Somerset. The book group enthusiastically supported the idea to replicate the scheme in Boxworth and Janet, with a group of 4 friends, distributed fliers to every home in the parish setting out their proposal.

With the support of the community, the village meeting agreed to support a pilot scheme for one year. The King family and friends repainted the box and installed shelving where the telephone once sat. The whole project cost just £50.

Books for adults and children, as well as magazines, have been donated by local residents and the book exchange has proved a great success. Older people and young families have particularly benefitted from this fantastic resource on their doorstep.

The Boxworth Book Exchange is routinely cleaned, restocked and operated by volunteers and works on a trust basis. Multiple copies of books are donated to local charities and it's a great way of recycling and cutting down car journeys.

For more information on the Boxworth Book Exchange or the Book Club please contact arts development manager Karen Thomas or visit the Adopt a Kiosk BT website www.payphones.bt.com/adopt_a_kiosk/HTML/payphone/index.htm

Unpicked Meadow

Unpicked Meadow is a public art project for Riverside Park, Stockbridge Meadows Nature Reserve, and the people of Melbourn, led by artist Jo Chapman.

Running from May 2010 to May 2011, the project explores the natural world of the meadow and how people interact with it through art and poetry. Visit www.melbourn.org.uk/publicart to see poems written for the seasons and details of the Stockbridge Tapestry project.

A wall of wooden plaques painted by visitors can be seen on the site and a new ARTIVAN, a converted caravan, has been created. Over the summer the ARTIVAN appeared on site weekly, giving visitors a chance to work with guest artists and take part in free arts activities. It will be on site for a day of sociable poetry writing, on Sunday 17 October from 10am to 4pm.

For more information please contact Kirstin Bicknell

Video kiosk

The StART equipment bank already includes a mobile cinema kit, sound and lighting kit, dance floor and exhibition boards, which are available to hire at a discounted rate for community groups.

The latest addition is a desktop video kiosk, which can be used for consultation and evaluation of arts events. So far, the video kiosk has been used to get people's views and feedback on an arts space for Cambourne, public art in Melbourn, Festival 2012 events, and the Linton Children's Book Festival, as well as helping young people to achieve their Arts Award.

If you would like more information on the video kiosk and how to book it contact arts development manager Kirstin Bicknell.

Following Faded Footsteps in Orwell

Children at Petersfield Primary School have been working with a filmmaker to create a DVD about sustainable living. The children interviewed older residents to learn about ways in which life was once more sustainable, and how they could use that knowledge today. For details visit www.cfc.e2bn.net or contact the school on (01223) 207382. The project is supported by stART with funding from the Big Lottery Fund.

Don't miss...

Custard Comedy

For over 18s at Comberton Leisure every third Friday of the month. Future highlights include:

- 17 September - John Gordillo, "Brilliant", The Times
- 15 October - Rainer Hersch, Radio 4's Loose Ends
- 19 November - Kent Valentine, "A natural raconteur" Chortle

Big Draw

Big Draw activities everywhere in October, including Cottenham Village College, as part of Family Learning Day on Saturday 16 October

Cambridge Quilters

Cambridge Quilters will be having a sale of work, including quilts, fabrics, cushions, jewellery, cards, gifts and decorations at Grantchester Village Hall on 23 October from 10am to 4pm.

Fen Edge Art Exhibition

At Cottenham Village College from 28 to 31 October

For more details visit www.start-arts.org.uk

Praise for arts partnership working

SCDC forms a part of the stART partnership that supports the work of arts development managers. The partnership was praised during Melbourn Village College's recent inspection for designation as a Performing Arts Specialist Status College. The positive impact of arts activities within both the college and the wider community, co-ordinated by the Arts Development Manager, were described as 'excellent'.

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AQUALISA POLYFLOR PORCELANOSA Roca Twyford Warmup

Welcome

...to the sixth of our London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games features.

• Cllr Jaime Dipple, SCDC Champion for the Olympics

"Welcome to the sixth edition of our London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games features.

"Over the summer there has been a feast of sporting activities across our district.

"What is especially exciting is the global connection that has been created between our area and schools in Mozambique. This is to the benefit of children's sporting education in both countries.

"I would encourage anyone who has a desire either to start running, or improve their technique to join one of the new running groups in Cottenham and Sawston. Perhaps even setting up your own, using our help, is the way to get fit?

"It was fantastic to see thousands of children taking part in both Olympic and Paralympic Games events aimed at inspiring them into sport.Their enthusiasm really shone through and many went home as award-winners. Hopefully we are in the midst of creating a lasting legacy for the 2012 games."

• Details of all events can be found at www.scambs.gov.uk/London2012

2010 Youth Games PLUS

More than 600 young people with some impairment or additional need battled it out for sporting honours in the Youth Games PLUS 2010.

They came from 20 Cambridgeshire schools and competed at One Leisure St Ives.

The games were extra special this year as Danny Crates, Paralympics athletics champion, opened the event.

Each school represented a past Olympic Games host city and competed in athletics, boccia, cricket, netball and tag rugby.

Impington Village College, one of the five teams from South Cambridgeshire, swept the board winning all three boccia competitions. In Athletics there were individual medallists from Granta School.

Rebecca Gilbertson, from LIVING SPORT which organised the games on behalf of the County Disability Sports Forum, said: "It was great to see all the competitions happening and there was a great atmosphere with a record number of schools all having a brilliant time."

• TOP Pupils from Cottenham Village College

• LEFT Alice Rush of Impington Village College

• BOTTOM Members of the Impington Village College team

Park Life!

• The Park Life parade

Over 2000 visitors descended on Milton Country Park in July for a two-year London Olympics countdown.

The challenge for participants was to try something new to help get active in the lead up to the 2012 Games.

Activities included trampolining, football, tennis, music making, tumbletots, face painting, climbing, orienteering, athletics, paddle boarding, yoga and basketball.

There was entertainment from the Orchard Park Stilters, Cambourne Bloco and live music from Cambridge Harmony and Split Whiskers.

The day ended with a parade through the park led by the Cambourne Bloco, accompanied by face painted children with the instruments they had made.

Parents on the run

This year we have had success working with local primary school Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) to start beginner-running groups for parents.

If you are interested in setting up a running group in your village please contact Helen Stepney on 03450 450500.

A day in the life of an elite athlete

Following the launch of our Elite Athlete Award scheme last summer, we've been turning the spotlight on successful grant applicants in the district who are competing at regional, national or world-class level.

In this edition we meet Tom Bucktrout, a sailor from Longstanton, who was awarded £250 funding.

Tom, now 15, learnt to sail at Grafham Water and started racing when he was just eight. He joined his first squad at nine.

Tom said: "I take my inspiration from Ben Ainslie, the best GB sailor in history. My ultimate aim is to win an Olympic gold medal. It is simply the top event I could sail in.

"My greatest achievements are finishing 14th at the 2009 Topper World Championships in Australia, becoming the 2009 Junior National Champion at Hayling Yacht Club in the

29er class, and representing Team GB in Spain this summer.

"In a typical week I sail one evening and all weekend. It's hard balancing it with school but my family and teachers have always been very supportive."

For information about our Elite Athlete Award scheme contact 03450 450 500 or visit www.scambs.gov.uk/london2012

Run 4 Health

As part of our initiative to get more adults involved in healthy lifestyles we have established a number of running groups in South Cambridgeshire villages.

Groups cater for complete beginners and start with a mix of walking and running to help participants build up fitness at their own pace.

Improvers groups cater for those progressing from beginners and wishing to continue running with the benefit of advice from a qualified instructor.

Group details:

- Cottenham - Tuesdays
  Beginners'session 9.30am – 10.30am
  Meet at the front of the village college
  Email: sportscentre@cvcweb.net
  Tel: (01954) 288760

- Sawston - Wednesdays
  Beginners' session 6pm – 7pm
  Improvers' session 7pm – 8pm
  Meet at the sports centre reception
  Email: victoriagreen@btinternet.com

Mini Olympics

Year four children from across South Cambridgeshire took part in the School Sport Partnership Mini Olympics event.

• Going for gold in the long jump

Held at Wilberforce Road Athletics track in Cambridge, the aim was to encourage more young people to get involved in sport and strive to achieve their personal best.

Children from Swavesey Primary School said that their favourite event was the tug of war while other firm favourites included cheerleading, long jump and athletics.

Before the day, a competition took place where the children wrote an oath for the event based on Olympic and Paralympic values. Harston & Newton Community Primary School won.

Children were awarded certificates for demonstrating qualities associated with Olympic values such as respect, determination, excellence and friendship.

The event was a government-funded initiative organised by the South Cambs School Sports Partnership.

International inspirations

"Granta is an all age area special school in Linton," explains Simon Bainbridge Deputy Head Teacher of Granta School.

"Two years ago we applied to be part of the International Inspirations project.

"Our link school is Mabanja Escola in the Boane region of Mozambique, about an hour's drive west of Maputo.

"The aims of the link are based within sport, and we chose to focus on games that are inclusive and can be used with a wide variety of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

"The Headteacher of Mabanja Escola identified this need as few children with SEN attend school, and a more inclusive approach could help. We have visited Mozambique twice; for initial planning purposes, and to visit schools in the Boane area to teach some inclusive games.

"The Headteacher and sports link teacher from Mabanja Escola came to England to learn about our system and to refine the objectives for future link work.

"Several fundraising activities have taken place, including a pamper evening and a quiz night."

To get involved please email sbainbridge@granta.cambs.sch.uk

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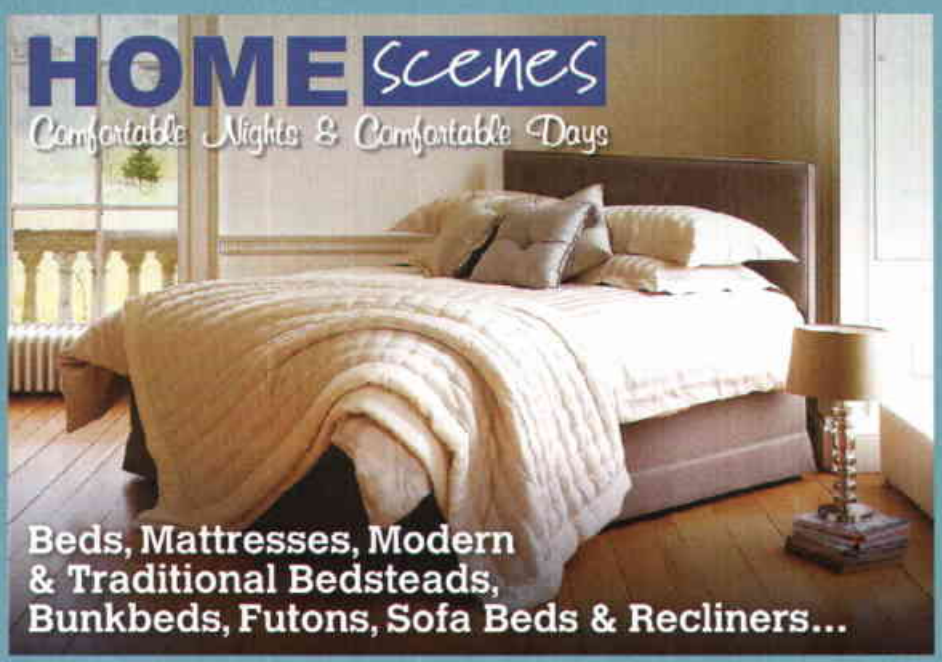

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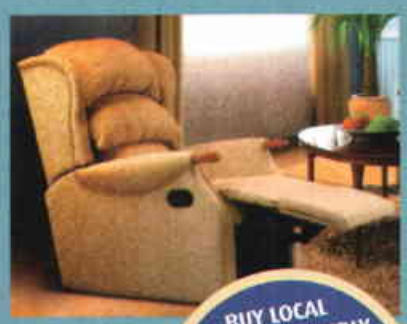

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Peer Review

Our landlord services team recently invited the Improvement and Development Agency for local government (IdeA) to undertake a peer review of our services, to aid continual improvement and draw on the skills of experts from outside the authority.

A team of people who understand the pressures and challenges of running a local authority housing service undertook the review of our service set against the Audit Commission's inspection framework.

The team interviewed staff, contractors, and partners and, most importantly, spoke to groups of tenants in informal focus groups. They also tested the services by examining our policies and procedures, and checked our performances against other similar local authorities. The review was carried out over 2 days at the end of June.

Initial feedback was very positive and they recognised that whilst there are areas of the service that require development, the plans we have in place provide us with the opportunity to work with tenants to improve the services we provide.

The tenants were complimentary about our repairs and maintenance services. Our performance is strong when re-letting empty properties and collecting rent, and our improvement plans are sound.

Areas for development include ensuring that housing assumes a prominent role within the council, and that it considers a framework involving councillors, officers and tenants working together. Such a framework will assist the decision-making process by empowering tenants, so that you can scrutinise our performance and our expenditure and have a say in how we spend your money.

We also need to obtain more information about who our customers are, and what their needs are, so that we can provide a more personal service to meet those needs.

Focus groups which took place at Comberton with tenants who gave their opinions to us in the peer review

Disability forum

The initial meeting of the Disability Forum was held in June and was well received. Positive discussions took place and valuable feedback was provided on a number of issues, including the suitability of properties for people with disabilities, and the support available within our communities.

Attendees requested that an A-Z of support services be developed and this has now been done. Contact Carol Johnson on (01954) 713050 for details.

Gerri Bird of Disability Cambridgeshire joined the discussions to talk about the advice and information her organisation offers disabled and elderly people, and their carers, to make them aware of their entitlements. For more information call (01480) 839192.

Our community telecare coordinator Jane Poole talked about assisted technology and the range of triggers that can be connected to an alarm to support people in remaining independent and at home. Jane can be contacted on (01954) 713470.

Staff from the Papworth Trust also attended to discuss the services they deliver across employment, vocational rehabilitation, housing, personal support and learning for life to ensure disabled people have more equality, choice and independence in their lives.

For more information call 0800 9525000.

To get involved in the Disability Forum contact Carol Johnson on (01954) 713050.

Need help or advice?

If you need housing help or advice - whether you're an SCDC, housing association or private tenant, or even if you own your own home - our free local housing surgeries are the place to go.

Our experienced housing officers will talk through your housing issues or queries, giving you information about how SCDC and other local government and voluntary organisations may be able to help you.

You don't need to make an appointment, just turn up on the day. We may be able to offer you a private consultation but, if this isn't possible, we can arrange an appointment for you at our Cambourne offices, or for a housing officer to visit you at home.

Our Sawston surgery also offers housing benefit, housing and homelessness advice. If you are facing homelessness please call 03450 450 051 as soon as possible. We can talk through your circumstances and, if appropriate, arrange an appointment for you.

Where	When	Time
Fulbourn 4 Dunmowe Way	*Last Thursday of the month* 30 September, 29 October, 25 November	1pm - 4pm
Gamlingay Communal Room, Avenells Way	*Second Tuesday of every month* 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December	10.30am - 12pm
Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane	*First Tuesday of every month* 7 September, 5 October, 2 November, 7 December	10am - 11am
Linton Communal Room, Chalklands	*Third Tuesday of every month* 21 September, 19 October, 16 November, 21 December	10am - 11am
Sawston Communal Room, Chapelfield Way	*Thursday* – 9 and 23 September, 7 and 21 October, 4 and 18 November, 2 and 16 December	11am - 1:30pm
Willingham Baptist Church, George Street	*First Wednesday of the month* 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December	10am - 12pm

Addressing diversity

We're setting up an equality and diversity forum to address the needs of all our tenants whatever their ethnic origin, belief, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation.

We already have a tenant representative on the main SCDC Equalities Consultative Forum, which meets four times a year and feeds into all council services.

Eight tenants have already expressed an interest in the forum and we're working to set up an initial meeting.

If you'd like to take part, please contact Paul Williams on 03450 450 500.

Halloween Ghost Tours

Join us, if you dare, to explore the darker side of Cambridge's past. Halloween Punting & Walking Ghost Tours run from 23rd to 31st October. Tickets on sale now.

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Best Kept Gardens 2010 – the results

This year marks thirty years of the Best Kept Garden competition and we're very pleased, once again, to be celebrating the blooming marvellous work of our tenants and equity-share residents.

The winners have been announced and we can reveal they are:

- **Best Kept Garden**
  Mr Page of Chalklands in Linton (Centre)
- **Best Vegetable Garden**
  Mr Hall of Riddy Lane, Bourn (Bottom Left)
- **Best Sheltered Scheme**
  Mrs Connollly of Stevens Close, Cottenham (Bottom right)
- **Best Window Box or Container**
  Mr Gawthrop of Cambridge Road, Balsham (Top)

The judges had a tough choice given the high number of entrants and the fantastic displays on show.

Our winners will receive their prizes during an awards ceremony on 1 October at 7.30pm at the David Rayner suite, Scotsdale Garden Centre, Great Shelford. This event is open to the public and will feature the Village Hero and Community Pride Awards.

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Christmas Season

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Local Roast Turkey or Grilled Salmon or Vegetable Lasagne (v)

Christmas Pudding or Fresh Fruit Salad or Banoffee Roulade

2 Course - £12.95pp

3 Course - £15.00pp (including coffee)

Festive Dinners

Resident disco from 1st Dec-24th Dec

Winter Vegetable Soup or Prawn Cocktail or Farmhouse Pate

Traditional Roast Beef or Local Roast Turkey or Grilled Salmon or Brie, Pine Nuts and Cranberry Wellington (v)

Christmas Pudding or Fresh Fruit Salad or Chocoholic Fantasy

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Tenant Services Authority and local offers

In the last edition of Key Issues we announced that on 1 April the Tenants Services Authority (TSA) became the independent regulator for affordable housing in England. In October we have to produce an end of year report for the TSA outlining how our service meets the national standards and our plans for developing local offers. A local offer is an agreement to introduce a service or improve a service, as agreed between a landlord and its tenants.

We met a group of tenants on 25 June to discuss the TSA, local offers, and the need for tenants to be involved in a co-regulatory panel to scrutinise our performance and ensure that we meet our value for money objectives.

The table below outlines the national standards, how we meet them, and what local offers we need to enhance them. The full report will be published in September and will be available on our website. Printed copies will be available on request.

TSA National Standard	Containing requirements relating to the following areas	How does South Cambs meet the standard?	Local offer
Tenant involvement & empowerment	Customer service, choice and complaints	We have a range of opportunities for tenants to contact us	
	Involvement & empowerment	Flourishing tenant groups and the Resident Involvement Framework	Set up a tenant-led regulatory panel
	Understanding and responding to the diverse needs of tenants	We need to do more work in this area	Undertake a customer profiling exercise
Home	Quality of accommodation	We will meet the Decent Homes Standard by the end of 2010	
	Repairs and maintenance	We have high satisfaction rates for this service and we are currently involving tenants in a tendering exercise to chose a new contractor. Gas servicing is up to date, with none outstanding	New responsive repairs contract offering enhanced services
Tenancy	Allocations	Our re-let performance is very good, and using Home-Link Choice Based Letting ensures homes are let to those in need, in areas of their choice	A revised relet standard
	Tenure	We provide secure tenancies. However, we need to update our service standards and publicise our policies and procedures	New service standards. Publicise polices and procedures
Neighbourhood & community	Neighbourhood management	We have a team of housing services officers that manage our estates, and meet residents in housing surgeries	Formal estate inspections with tenants present, including emphasis on grounds maintenance and explore close working relationships with parish councils
	Local area co-operation	We meet with other social landlords and are involved with countywide partners	
	ASB	We work with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) to deal effectively with anti-social behaviour	New Anti-social behaviour strategy, policies and procedures
Value for money	Value for money	We are developing a value for money strategy and we are working corporately within the Council and with councillors to ensure we meet this standard	The tenant co-regulatory panel will examine value for money issues and consider how and where money is spent

Get in touch

There are lots of ways to get in touch with housing services:

Housing customer services
03450 450 051 (8am to 8pm Monday to Saturday except bank holidays)

Council tenants' 24 hour free phone repair line 0800 085 1313

Rent enquiries and arrears
03450 450 064

Rent payments by telephone
03450 455 218
(24 hours, seven days a week)

Right to buy (01954) 713334

Write to or visit: Housing Services, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA

Email: duty.housing@scambs.gov.uk

Visit: www.scambs.gov.uk/housing

Contact Cllr Mark Howell, housing portfolio holder, on (01480) 831848, cllr.howell@scambs.gov.uk or write to the Housing Services address above.

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